

What is Public Health?

“Activities that society undertakes to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy. This includes organized community efforts to prevent, identify and counter threats to the health of the public.”

-BJ Turnock

NH Context

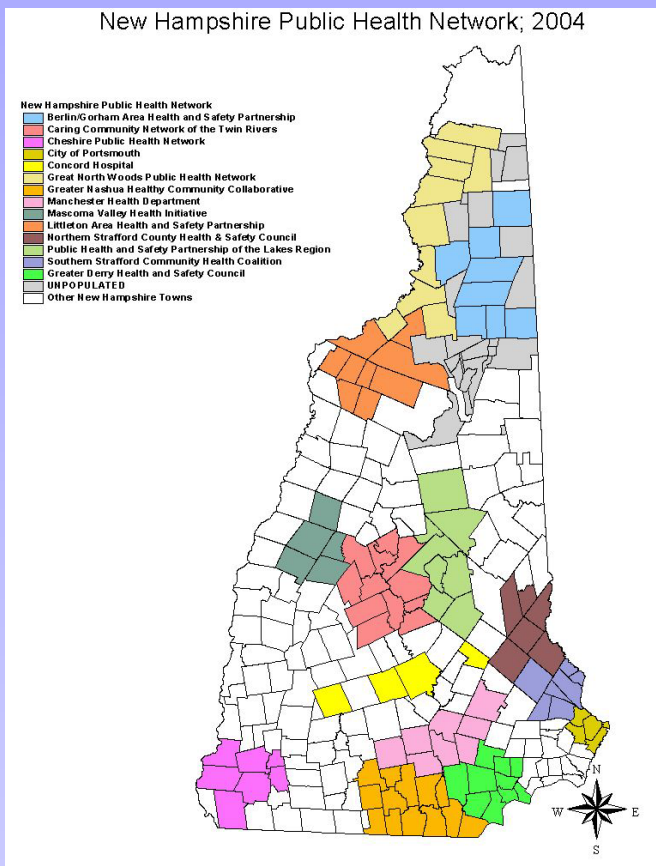
- Each of New Hampshire's 234 cities and towns are statutorily required to have a health officer
- Together with the local administrative body, the health officer constitutes the local health board
- Only three New Hampshire communities maintain public health departments; no county health departments
- Approximately 25% of New Hampshire towns rely on volunteer health officers

NH Context

- In many New Hampshire communities, non-governmental organizations provide a significant sub-set of essential public health services
- At the State level, DHHS is the lead public health agency. The Department of Environmental Services, Department of Education, and Department of Safety also play key roles in promoting and protecting the public's health.

The New Hampshire Public Health Network

“Assuring the health and safety of all NH residents”



- o 14 Coalitions
- o 113 Towns
- o 49% of NH towns
- o 67% of the NH population covered
- o 5-11 communities per coalition (average)

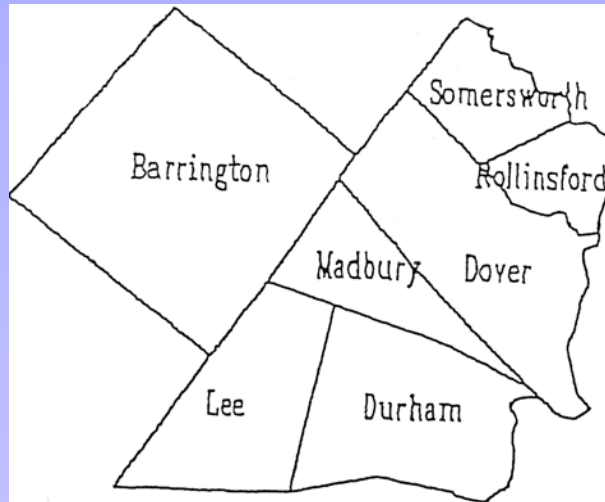
Purpose

Ensure that the Ten Essential Services of Public Health are being delivered by the local public health system by collaborating with:

- Government
- Health care providers
- Social service agencies
- Schools
- Businesses
- Civic organizations
- Faith organizations
- Emergency service providers
- Advocacy groups

SSCHC Towns

Barrington, Dover, Durham, Lee, Madbury,
Rollinsford, Somersworth



SSCHC Membership

American Medical Response	Durham Police Department	Somersworth Police Department
American Red Cross, Great Bay Chapter	Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce	Somersworth Public Schools
Avis-Goodwin Community Health Center	HUB Family Resource Center	Strafford County Community
Barrington Ambulance Department	Lee Board of Selectman	Action Program
Barrington Fire Department	Lee Volunteer Fire Department	Strafford County Head Start
Barrington Police Department	Madbury Board of Selectmen	Strafford Network
City of Dover	Madbury Police Department	The Works!
City of Somersworth	Madbury Volunteer Fire Department	Town of Barrington
Community Health Institute	NH Department Division of Public Health	Town of Durham
Community Partners	Oyster River Community for Healthy Youth	Town of Lee
Dover Coalition for Youth	Oyster River Cooperative School District	Town of Madbury
Dover Fire and Rescue Service	PSNH Seacoast Northern Division	Town of Rollinsford
Dover Middle School	Rollinsford Board of Selectmen	UNH Institute for Health Policy and Practice
Dover Police Department	Rollinsford Fire Department	University of New Hampshire
Dover Public Schools	Rollinsford Police Department	Wentworth-Douglass Hospital
Durham Ambulance Corps	Somersworth Chamber of Commerce	Whole Life Naturopath
Durham Fire Department	Somersworth Fire Department	
	NH PHIAP Advisory Committee	

4/20/2006

Local Public Health Needs Assessment

What is the Local Needs Assessment?

- Evaluation of the local public health system based on our ability to provide the Ten Essential Public Health Services
- A way to identify **local public health needs** based on the community's unique resources, capacity and readiness
- Results are unique to the local community

SSCHC Health Assessment

- Conducted during a day-long meeting on February 6th, 2004
- 17 participants representing 16 organizations completed the *LPHS*.
- Each workgroup evaluated 2 Essential Services

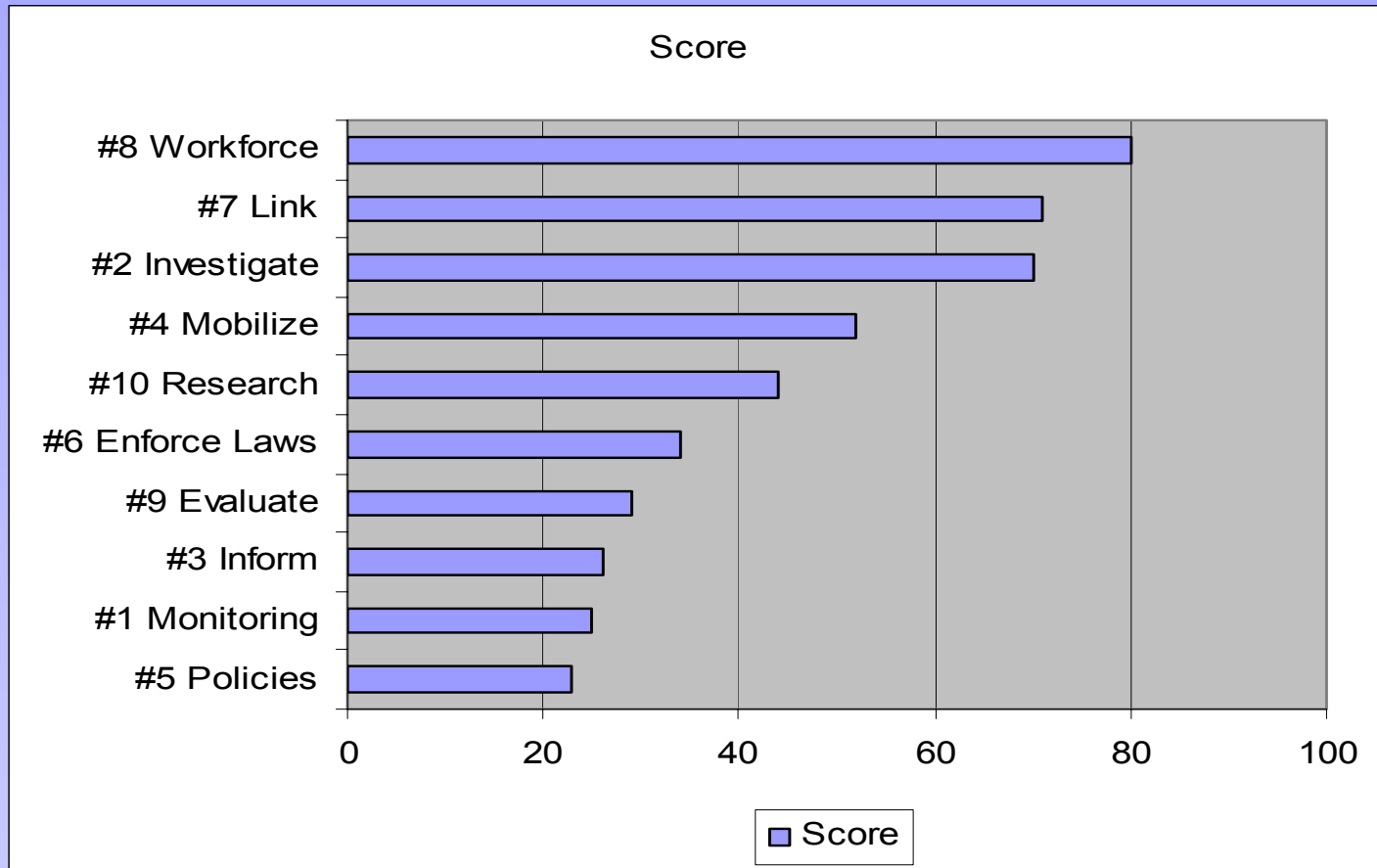
Other Health Assessments

- Held over two days with 6 towns and 40 people participating. The entire group evaluated all 10 modules.
- 10 groups ranging in size from 6-10 people were convened depending on the EPHS being evaluated (i.e. if the assessment was dealing with enforcement issues, they brought together the police and the Health Officers.)
- 32 people representing 13 agencies, 12 towns and many community groups, organizations and individuals. This group included a regularly conducted regional study in their assessment as well as the outcome of the LPHS in assessing capacity.

Other Health Assessments

- Nine working groups consisting of a total of 46 individuals convened to complete the LPHS. Each essential service took 2-3 hours to complete. Participants were chosen to work on each topic depending on their expertise.
- Held one orientation meeting, then went out to relevant groups and individuals to complete the assessment.

Results from the SSCHC Needs Assessment



SSCHC

Prioritization

Priorities based on CDC Results and on the following criteria:

- Likelihood that chosen priorities would improve health outcomes
- Likelihood that priorities would be reasonably achievable
- Would the priority be supported by the representative's agency (buy-in)

Other PHN

Prioritization Processes

- **During the initial assessment, the large group voted on the top indicator in each essential service.** After the results came back from CDC, the group reconvened and voted on which essential services they wanted to focus on based on **both the earlier votes and the outcomes of the CDC scores.**
- Evaluated state-level and local level activities within the priorities and **excluded those that were expected to come from the State (epi, enforcement, research, policy development).** That left 6 topics to work on through 2008.

Other PHN Prioritization Processes

- Areas for improvement were **ranked according to agreed upon criteria** including the likelihood that selected priorities would improve health outcomes, be reasonably achievable, supported by network members, and contribute to a regional approach to public health improvement. Specific priorities for action were assessed based on their ability to strengthen the delivery of public health services and promote improved health outcomes for each of the 10 Essential Public Health Services.
- Results of the CDC assessment were **compared with a local health assessment before priorities were chosen.**

Other PHN Prioritization Processes

- **The PHN sought out original workgroup participants to review and *rank* the CDC assessment results.**

Feedback was sought to rank the (already identified) “pressing” area health issues (Physical Activity/Obesity, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, Asthma, and Cancer). Additional effort was made to contact individuals and communities who were not able to attend the workgroup sessions. Results from the feedback were presented to the governing council in July 2004 who voted on the priority issues.

Priorities for Local Action

Of the 6 examples used in this presentation, overlap occurred in the following areas:

#1 Monitoring Health Status (Especially the creation of a Community Health Profile)

Availability of data a very big issue at the community level

#2 Diagnosing and Investigating Health Issues and Health Hazards

Public Health Preparedness – also a function of funding source

Priorities for Local Action

Of the 6 examples used in this presentation, overlap occurred in the following areas:

#3 Informing and Educating the Community

#4 Mobilizing Community Partnerships

#8 Assuring a Competent Workforce

These correlate to 3 of the 4 lowest-scoring EPHS on the
State Level Assessment

Carrying Out Priorities

The majority of projects are being carried out by workgroups or committees consisting of the appropriate stakeholders.

Take-Away Messages

- Local CDC Assessment Results not always the only tool used to evaluate local needs – local input and expertise sought out before final priorities were chosen
- Some overlap between common PHN priorities and needs indicated by the State Assessment.

Take-Away Messages

- Local need for data is very high, while the state level assessment did not indicate as great a need.
- Funding drives the activity – focus of PHNs is very much on Emergency Preparedness right now despite overall public health focus of the assessment and improvement plans.

PHIP

The PHNs have offered any of their Improvement Plans to the Advisory Committee if they would like to review what is happening locally.

Questions?



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